

Message Text

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64

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP, ECLA, OCON, MX

SUBJ: ECLA POPULATION MEETING OPENS ON MODERATE NOTE.

REF: MEXICO 1898

1. SECOND ECLA POPULATION MEETING BEGAN WITH SPEECHES BY ENRIQUE V. IGLESIAS, ECLA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY; ANTONIO CARRILLO FLORES, ADVISOR TO MEXICO'S NATIONAL POPULATION COUNCIL; DR. GERMAN WEINSTOCK, THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH OF COSTA RICA; AND GOM PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVERRIA ALVAREZ.

2. TENOR OF OPENING SPEECHES WAS FOR THE MOST PART BUSINESSLIKE, WITH ONLY PASSING MENTION OF THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES (CERDS) AND OF LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA). SPEECHES CONCENTRATED ON NEED TO BUILD ON FOUNDATION LAID BY FIRST ECLA POPULATION MEETING AT COSTA RICA AND BUCHAREST CONFERENCE. REEMPHASIZED WERE SUCH THEMES AS THE NEED FOR EACH COUNTRY TO DETERMINE ITS OWN PROGRAM AND FOR EACH COUPLE TO DECIDE FREELY THE SPACING AND NUMBER OF THEIR CHILDREN. FOR IGLESIAS, THIS WAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO OVERCOME "MERE CONFRONTATION" IN ORDER TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS AND TO PROVIDE A "STIMULUS TO ACTION." FOR CARRILLO, THE MEETING WILL PROVIDE A STIMULUS FOR INVESTIGATION, FOR INTERCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCE,

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AND FOR THE PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO THOSE INTERESTED. HE

ALSO NOTED GAP BETWEEN CITY AND COUNTRYSIDE AND RECOMMENDED THAT ECLA INVESTIGATE HOW TO IMPROVE PROVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO THIS SECTOR. HE EMPHASIZED THAT IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO RELY UPON U.S. AND CANADA AS THE "MODELS" OF CONSUMPTION", AND STRESSED THAT COUNTRIES MUST DEVELOP THEIR OWN TECHNOLOGY. CERDS AND NEW INTERNATIONAL ORDER WERE STEPS IN THIS DIRECTION, AND THE "STRUGGLE" HAS NOT YET ENDED.

3. ECHEVERRIA'S STATEMENT WAS RELATIVELY BRIEF (TWENTY MINUTES) AND, COMPARED WITH HIS RECENT STATEMENTS AT OTHER INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS, WAS RELATIVELY MILD IN CONTENT AND LOW KEYED IN DELIVERY. EACH NATION, HE SAID, IS TO DETERMINE ITS OWN POLICY, AS A PART OF ITS DEVELOPMENT; ELIMINATE INTERNAL INEQUALITY; AND LIBERATE ITSELF FROM INTERNATIONAL EXPLOITATION. THE MEXICAN DECISION TO FORMULATE CERDS WAS BASED ON THESE CONCEPTS - TO GIVE EACH NATION FULL CONTROL OVER ITS OWN RESOURCES. MEXICO, HE EMPHASIZED, DOESN'T WANT SIMPLE BIRTH CONTROL AND WILL NOT SACRIFICE HUMAN WELFARE TO FAMILY PLANNING, BUT IS IN FAVOR OF RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD. WHERE EACH COUPLE MAY FREELY DECIDE SPACING AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN. HE NOTED THE CREATION BY THE GOM OF THE NATIONAL POPULATION COUNCIL AND THE 1973 POPULATION LAW. MEXICAN LAWS HAVE BEEN REFORMED, HE STATED, TO HELP THE COUNTRYSIDE, REDISTRIBUTE INCOME, INCREASE EMPLOYMENT, ETC. THE POPULATION CRISIS, ECHEVERRIA ADDED, WAS PART OF A GLOBAL CRISIS. THE SOLUTION IS FOR EACH COUNTRY TO BE IN CHARGE OF ITS OWN RESOURCES, WITH RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. THIS IS THE BASIS OF SELA, WHICH WILL "NEUTRALIZE TRANSNATIONALS". MEXICO NOW WANTS "COLLECTIVE BENEFITS."

4. FIRST PLENARY SESSION UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED MARIO MOYA PALENCIA OF MEXICO AS PRESIDENT. FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT IS BOLIVA, SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT IS VENEZUELA AND RAPPORTEUR IS PANAMA. IN ADDITION TO PLENARY, ONE WORKING GROUP OF THE WHOLE WAS ESTABLISHED, WITH THE UNANIMOUS ELECTION OF ARGENTINA AS CHAIRMAN, JAMAICA AS VICE CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY, AND ECUADOR AS RAPPORTEUR.
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